Keep your English up to date 4

Teacher’s pack
Lesson plan and student worksheets with answers

Facebook

BBC WORLD SERVICE
LEARNING ENGLISH
Level: Intermediate and above
Topic: The Internet and social networking
Aims: Listening skills – A short talk
Language – ‘facebook’; expressions with ‘face’

Materials: Worksheet 1 – Introductory speaking and vocabulary exercises, Listening section 1
Worksheet 2 – Listening section 2
Worksheet 3 – Extra work: Vocabulary, language and discussion
Audio script – Available in teacher’s notes
Recording of the talk – Available online at bbclearningenglish.com

This plan was downloaded from:

LESSON STAGES

A
Explain to the students that they are going to listen to a talk by Gavin Dudeney, an expert on the English language, and that the talk is about the way English is changing. This particular talk is about the word ‘Facebook’.

B
Hand out Student Worksheet 1. Students do Speaking, Exercise 1 in small groups or pairs.

C
Students do Vocabulary, Exercise 2 - without dictionaries at first. Practise the pronunciation of the vocabulary, as they will hear it in the talk.

D
Students read Listening: Section 1, Exercise 3 and then listen to Section 1 of the talk. They answer questions ‘a’ and ‘b’.

Students listen again and do Listening: Section 1, Exercise 4.

E
Hand out Student Worksheet 2
Students read Listening: Section 2, Exercise 5 and then listen to Section 2 of the talk. They answer questions ‘a’ and ‘b’.

F
Students try to answer Listening: Section 2, Exercise 6. They listen again to Section 2 to check/complete their answers.

G
If you wish to do some extra work with the class, hand out Student Worksheet 3

For the vocabulary exercise, give the students copies of the audio script and play the complete talk as they read.

The language work focuses on other phrases using the word ‘face’.

The final discussion uses some of the language from the lesson.
Facebook

Listening Section 1
Do you use any of the social networking websites which are so popular these days? You know - the places where you can connect up with friends and relatives and meet people who share the same interests as you?

If you’re younger you may use MySpace, young adults are more likely to be found on Facebook and busy professionals may prefer something like LinkedIn. But at least two of these sites have one thing in common: apart from being social spaces where you can meet and chat to people, share photos and other things, they’ve all added new verbs and nouns to the language in the past couple of years.

Listening Section 2
Let’s take a look at some examples. I’ve just facebooked the photos from my summer holiday [uploaded them to my Facebook page]. I facebooked that guy John and it turns out he’s an architect [looked him up in Facebook]. Did you facebook Susan about the party? [contact Susan through her Facebook page]. Anyway, nice to meet you. Do you mind if I facebook you? [add you as a Facebook friend].

As you can see, ‘facebook’ is a pretty versatile word, and you could say the same about ‘myspace’, which you will find being used in much the same way all over the Net. LinkedIn (being a more adult, professional community) is yet to succumb to such cavalier twisting of the English language!

And while you’re ‘facebooking’ or ‘myspacing’ you may also find yourself ‘commenting’ (writing a comment on someone’s Facebook or MySpace page), as in this example: ‘I commented Dawn that she should come to the pub on Saturday and she commented me that she couldn’t because she was going away for the weekend’. Anyway, I must get on. I haven’t facebooked yet today and there’s sure to be a lot to catch up on!
ANSWER KEY

VOCABULARY

Exercise 2

a. relatives: members of your family
b. professionals: people who have good jobs requiring good education and extra training
c. to upload something: to add something to an Internet web page
d. versatile: can be used in many different ways
e. to succumb: to give in to something; to be defeated by something
f. cavalier: without respect for tradition or normal ways of doing things

LISTENING: SECTION 1

Exercise 3

a. social networking sites
b. 3 – Myspace, Facebook and LinkedIn

Exercise 4

a. True – ‘If you’re younger you may use MySpace, young adults are more likely to be found on Facebook’
b. True – ‘busy professionals may prefer something like LinkedIn’
c. False – ‘they’ve all added new verbs and nouns to the language in the past couple of years.’

LISTENING: SECTION 2

Exercise 5

a. 4
b. add something to your website: ‘uploaded them to my Facebook page’
   find out information about someone on a website: ‘looked him up in Facebook’
   get in contact through a website: ‘contact Susan through her Facebook page’
   make a link with someone through your website: ‘add you as a Facebook friend’
Exercise 6
a. False – ‘facebook’ is a pretty versatile word, and you could say the same about ‘myspace’.

b. False – ‘LinkedIn is yet to succumb to such cavalier twisting of the English language!’

c. True – ‘I commented Dawn that she should come to the pub on Saturday and she commented me that she couldn’t because she was going away for the weekend’

EXTRA WORK

VOCABULARY

Exercise 7
a. community
b. to get on
c. to catch up on something

LANGUAGE

Exercise 8a
a. To keep a straight face
b. Face to face
c. To accept something at face value
d. A face pack
e. On the face of the earth
f. In the face of something
g. To face the music
h. Can’t face doing something
Exercise 8b

a. In the face of strong public opposition, the government still decided to go to war.
b. In his time, David Beckham was the best football player on the face of the Earth.
c. I still haven’t told Dad that I have crashed his car. I guess I’d better go home and face the music.
d. I got a real shock when she opened the door and she was wearing a face pack. She had forgotten that we had a date that night!
e. I would never accept what governments say at face value; they always have hidden reasons for their policies and actions.
f. It was so funny when we put salt in the teacher’s cup of tea. It was hard to keep a straight face as he drank it.
g. I try to do as much business as possible over the phone as I get nervous when I meet people face to face.
h. I can’t face spending another day sitting in traffic jams; I’m going to cycle to work!
WORKSHEET 1

SPEAKING

1. Discuss these questions with your partner.

a. How much time a week do you think you spend on the Internet?

b. What kind of websites do you use?

- News websites
- Shopping sites
- Information sites
- Social networking sites
- Email or messenger services
- Search engines
- Online gaming sites
- Chat rooms and other types of forum

c. In your country, what are the popular social networking sites? These are sites where people have their own personal home page, and they are connected directly to friends.

c. Has there been a recent increase in the use of social networking sites? Do you use any? What are the advantages and disadvantages of such sites?

VOCABULARY

2. Match these words and phrases to their definitions.

a. relatives — without respect for tradition or normal ways of doing things

b. professionals — can be used in many different ways

c. to upload something — people who have good jobs requiring a good education and extra training

d. versatile — to add something to an Internet web page

e. to succumb — members of your family

f. cavalier — to give in to something; to be defeated by something
LISTENING SECTION 1

3. Now, listen to Gavin Dudeny talking about change in the English language and answer these questions.

a. What type of Internet site does he discuss?

b. How many specific sites does he mention by name? What are the names?

4. Listen to Section 1 again and decide if the following statements are true or false, according to Gavin Dudeny.

a. People who use Myspace are generally not as old as people who use Facebook

b. LinkedIn is for people with good jobs.

c. Sites like these have given new words such as adverbs and adjectives to the language.
LISTENING SECTION 2

5. Listen to Section 2 of the talk and answer these questions.

a. Gavin gives example uses of one word from a social networking site. How many uses does he give?
b. What are they?

6. Listen again to Section 2. Are the following sentences true or false?

a. Myspace has proven to be a less versatile word than Facebook.
b. All three of the sites mentioned have provided some new words.
c. In this Internet context, ‘to comment’ means to leave a message for someone on their site.
WORKSHEET 3 - EXTRA WORK

VOCABULARY

7. Find the phrases in the text that have the following meanings.
   a. a group of people with similar interests or connections
   b. stop doing something in order to do something more important
   c. to find out the latest news and information; to bring yourself up-to-date

LANGUAGE

8a. There are many expressions and phrases which use the word ‘face’. Complete the expressions below with words from the box. Use the definitions to help you.
   
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>value</th>
<th>in</th>
<th>straight</th>
<th>pack</th>
<th>earth</th>
<th>face</th>
<th>music</th>
<th>can’t</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

   a. To keep a _____ face: to not laugh or smile when you are playing a joke or trick on someone; to hide your true feelings when playing a game such as poker.
   b. Face to ______: to meet someone in person to discuss something, rather than using email or the telephone
   c. To accept something at face ______: to believe someone or something without doubting it, or asking questions about the reasons behind something
   d. A face ______: something that you, usually women, put on your face to clean it and make it fresh. It looks like mud, and you leave it on your face for a long time
   e. On the face of the ______: this is used to emphasis that something is the best or is unique
   f. ______the face of something: you do something despite the fact that there are many difficulties or there is little support for your action
   g. To face the ______: to take responsibility for a mistake that you have made, or something bad that you have done, and to accept the consequences of that action, for example, punishment.
   h. ______ face doing something: to not want to do something because it is too difficult or unpleasant
8b. Use the correct phrase from Exercise 8a in the sentences below.

a. ______________ strong public opposition, the government still decided to go to war.

b. In his time, David Beckham was the best football player ______________.

c. I still haven’t told Dad that I have crashed his car. I guess I’d better go home
   and ______________.

d. I got a real shock when she opened the door and she was wearing ______________.
   She had forgotten that we had a date that night!

e. I would never accept what governments say ______________; they always have
   hidden reasons for their policies and actions.

f. It was so funny when we put salt in the teacher’s cup of tea. It was hard to keep
   ______________ as he drank it.

g. I try to do as much business as possible over the phone as I get nervous when I meet
   people ______________.

h. I ______________ spending another day sitting in traffic jams; I’m going to cycle
   to work!

Discussion

9. Discuss these questions with your partner.

a. Do you prefer to chat with people over the telephone, online or to meet them face to
   face?

b. Is there anything you can’t face doing over the next few weeks?

c. Have you ever worn a face pack? Did it work?

d. Have you ever done anything in the face of strong opposition from your parents?

e. Have you ever done something wrong and then faced the music? What did you do and
   what were the consequences?

f. Do you know anyone who is particularly good at keeping a straight face? What about
   you, are you good at telling little lies, or can people always tell when you are lying?

g. Who do you think is the best football player / singer / film star on the face of the
   earth?

h. Do you generally accept your government’s word at face value?

i. Are you a member of Facebook? Would you like to be?